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In sanitary matters, probably as much as in any branch of governmental activity, early and accurate information is essential to good administration, and it is believed the International Office of Public Hygiene will be able to supply this information more economically, promptly, and in a more satisfactory form than could be done by the individual state.

As is customary in practically all European countries, a liberal retirement privilege and pensions have been provided for the personnel of this bureau, so that the undivided efforts of their best years may be given to the work without fear for the future.

The men chosen for director and secretary-general are distinguished in their callings, are full of zeal for the work, and will have the earnest support of the French Government, which has promised not only to officially recognize the bureau, but to give it permanent offices in the Department of Labor.

It is believed that the full exchange of ideas that will take place at the semiannual gathering of the governing committee, composed as it is of men of the highest authority and influence, will have a beneficial effect upon the march of international sanitation, and that as a central clearing house of sanitary information the bureau will become of the highest importance, both in the quarantine and the internal sanitary administration of the various countries of the world.

The foundations of the International Office of Public Hygiene have been laid as for an institution that is to be permanent. In organization it resembles the permanent International Postal Bureau and the Bureau of Weights and Measures, but in the field of sanitation it is original, being the result of long and persevering collaboration by men who believe that the greatest international publicity in sanitary matters is the first and most important step toward perfect sanitary control.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Reports from San Francisco, Cal.—Plague-prevention work at San Francisco, Oakland, and Point Richmond, and in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, Cal.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue reports:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Week ended December 26.

Date of last case	Sickened January 30, 1908
Sick inspected.....	6
Plague.....	0
Dead inspected.....	121
Plague.....	0
Premises inspected	9,586
Houses disinfected.....	13
Nuisances abated	785

Rats found dead.....	61
Rats trapped.....	1, 856
Total rats taken.....	1, 917
Rats identified:	
Mus norvegicus.....	1, 228
Mus rattus.....	65
Mus musculus.....	585
Total.....	1, 878
Rats identified as to sex.....	1, 233
Male.....	476
Female.....	757
Rats examined bacteriologically.....	1, 145
Plague rats.....	0
Poisons placed.....	80, 870

OAKLAND, CAL.

Week ended December 19.

Dead inspected.....	17
Plague.....	0
Rats trapped.....	574
Rats examined bacteriologically.....	557
Plague rats.....	0
Mice trapped.....	63
Mice examined bacteriologically.....	63
Plague mice.....	0
Necropsies held.....	4

POINT RICHMOND, CAL.

Week ended December 19.

Sick inspected.....	2
Plague.....	0
Dead inspected.....	4
Plague.....	0
Premises inspected.....	490
Nuisances abated.....	26
Rats found dead.....	20
Rats trapped.....	44
Rats examined bacteriologically.....	40
Plague rats.....	0
Poisons placed.....	14, 000

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CAL.

Week ended December 19.

Sick inspected.....	11
Plague.....	0
Dead inspected.....	48
Plague.....	0
Necropsies held.....	4

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CAL.

Week ended December 19.

Dead inspected.....	1
Plague.....	0